

protection of the environment. Environmental standards and guidelines have been notified for different industries. Area specific environmental action plans for critically polluted areas have been prepared and are under implementation. Emphasis has also been made on control of vehicular pollution in metropolitan cities. Preparation of Zoning Atlas for siting of industries based upon environmental considerations in various districts of the country has been taken up. Mandatory environmental impact assessment and clearance is required for major developmental projects. The Manufacture, Storage and Import of Hazardous Chemical Rules, 1989 and the Chemical Accident (Emergency, Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules, 1996 have been notified. Disaster management plans have also been prepared in respect of major industrial complexes. Rules for management of bio-medical wastes emanating from hospitals and nursing homes have also been notified. A joint forest management scheme has been launched for ecological regeneration of village and community development for producing fuel wood, fodder, small timber and pastures.

Haryana and Punjab becoming drought prone

2809. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a recent report from environmentalists, Haryana and Punjab are heading towards becoming the country's least productive and drought prone areas;

(b) whether erosion, salinity, inappropriate cropping pattern, deforestation, urban sprawl and over-exploitation of natural resources are now posing a threat to the green revolution; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) In Haryana and Punjab, due to intensive cropping, there is more mining of micro and macro nutrients and withdrawal of excessive water leading to declining productivity. Although the growth rate of productivity has declined in Punjab recently, the productivity per hectare has not declined. The present wheat yield in Punjab still compares favourably with many countries in the world. The falling of water table relates specifically to sweet water zone due to early transplantation of rice. However, there is no report of drought in Haryana and Punjab. The problem of secondary salinisation particularly in canal irrigated areas is increasing due to more seepage.

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RAJYA SABHA

Proper lining of canals and judicious use of water are being advocated to mitigate this problem. In order to check soil erosion, bio-engineering measures have been suggested. Integrated use of natural resources and introduction of legumes in cropping system are also being popularised to sustain higher productivity. Under the National Watershed Development Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, which, inter alia, includes enhancement of agricultural productivity in a sustainable manner, an area of 35,520 ha. in Haryana and 19,792 ha. in Punjab has been treated so far.

Strengthening H.P. State Pollution Control Board

2810. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for strengthening institutional framework of H.P. State Pollution Control Board under the World Bank assistance programme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the views of Himachal Pradesh Government in the matter; and

(c) by when the said proposal is to be materialised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. Under the World Bank funded Environment Management Capacity Building Project, the Himachal Pradesh State Pollution Control Board is being strengthened. The following activities are included:— (1) Zoning Atlas for Siting of Industries (2) Industrial Estate Planning (3) Environmental Management Plan (4) Sustainable Tourism Development in Hilly Areas (5) Strengthening of air quality monitoring stations. The activities are proposed to be completed by 2003.

Controlling Forest Fire in Garhwal and Kumaon Mandals

† 2811. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 1700 given in the Rajya Sabha on 10th March, 2000 and state:

(a) what schemes have been formulated with the additional Central assistance of Rs. 10 crores provided by Ministry of Finance for prevention and control of forest fire in Garhwal and Kumaon Mandals in hilly areas;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.